

REMARKS

This is in full and timely response to the Official Action dated March 26, 2004 (Paper No. 5). Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested. By this response, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and early Notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Claim for Priority

It is noted with appreciation that the initial Action acknowledges the claim for priority and receipt of the certified copy of the priority documents supporting that claim.

Specification

As requested at the top of page 2 of the Action, the specification was reviewed and a few minor changes made to prepare this application for final printing in light of the indication of allowable subject matter. Among the changes submitted is a change to the title of the invention. If the examiner continues to believe that the title is not apt, he is invited to suggest an alternative to the undersigned.

Pending Claims and Rejections Advanced

Claims 1 to 34 were submitted in this application as filed. Of these, claims 8 to 17 are indicated to be allowable and thus are retained as filed. Claims 25 to 31 are not specifically mentioned in the rejections of any claims. In view of their subject matter and the absence of a specific rejection, it is submitted that these claims 25 to 31 are in condition for allowance as well.

Claims 1, 3 to 5, 18, 20 to 22, 32 and 33 were initially rejected, while claims 2, 6, 7, 19, 23, 24 and 34 were indicated to be in condition for allowance if rewritten into independent form. Thus, claim 1 is amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 2 so that amended claim 1 is now prima facie allowable. Claim 2 is accordingly cancelled. Claims 3 to 5 are retained as dependent on amended, allowable claim 1.

Claim 6 and 7 were indicated to be allowable. Each is rewritten to include the subject matter of their base claim 1, so that amended claims 6 and 7 are allowable.

Claim 18 is amended to include the subject matter of its dependent, allowable claim 19, so that amended claim 18 is now prima facie allowable. Claims 20 to 22 are retained as dependent on amended, allowable claim 18.

Claims 23 and 24 are indicated to be allowable, and are each rewritten to include the subject matter of their independent claim 18, so that these claims are also allowable.

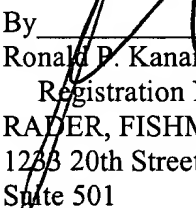
Claim 32 was rejected, while claim 34 was indicated to be allowable. Accordingly, claim 32 is amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 34 so that amended claim 32 is prima facie allowable. Claim 33 is retained as dependent on allowable claim 32.

Conclusion

Claims 1, 3 to 18, and 20 to 33 are allowable, while claims 2 and 19 are canceled. Early notice to that effect is respectfully solicited. Please charge our Deposit Account No. 18-0013, under Order No. SON-2218 (80001-2218) from which the undersigned is authorized to draw for any fees involved with the submission of this amendment

Dated: July 26, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Ronald P. Kananen
Registration No.: 24,104
RADER, FISHMAN & GRAUER PLLC
1233 20th Street, N.W.
Suite 501
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 955-3750
Attorney for Applicant